

**SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**  
**Minutes of the Meeting**  
**April 9, 2007**

Members present: Mr. Stowe, Mr. Martin, Mrs. Benedict, Mr. Brennan, Rep. Cotty, Mr. Daniel, Mr. DeLoach, Mr. Drew, Mrs. Murphy, Supt. Rex, Mr. Robinson, and Dr. Woodall

I. Welcome and Introductions: Mr. Stowe welcomed members and guests to the meeting. He introduced Michael Brennan as the Governor's designee on the EOC and Dr. Kristi Woodall, an educator appointed by Rep. Walker, Chairman of the House Education and Public Works Committee.

II. Approval of the Minutes of February 12: Mr. Stowe entertained a motion to approve the minutes as distributed; the minutes were approved.

III. Closing the Achievement Gap: Mr. Potter opened the session on closing the achievement gap. He indicated that the traditional technical studies to identify schools closing the achievement gap are available on the EOC website. He then introduced Dr. Diane Monrad, Director of the University of South Carolina Educational Policy Center (SCEPC). Dr. Monrad presented a summary of the research (distributed in the meeting materials) that documented the impact of school climate. She outlined statistical studies that indicate nine of the ten most powerful influences on school wide academic performance are school climate factors. These factors are identified from responses to the teacher, student and parent surveys. She called for exploration of the factors at the district level, discovery of patterns within demographic groups and a redesign of the school survey data report.

Mr. Potter introduced Mr. Johnny Calder, Principal of Forestbrook Elementary School in Horry County. Mr. Calder outlined the elements that define the instructional and support programs for students at the school. The school has been recognized by the EOC for five consecutive years. Mr. Calder's power point presentation has been distributed to members and is available from the EOC offices.

Mr. Potter introduced Mrs. Shailene Riginos, Principal of Liberty Elementary School in Pickens County. Mrs. Riginos outlined the instructional and support strategies used at Liberty Elementary School to attain high achievement levels and to be honored for five consecutive years. Her PowerPoint is also available from the EOC offices.

After members asked a number of questions of presenters, Mr. Stowe and Superintendent Rex awarded certificates to honorees and thanked them for their accomplishments. The EOC then recessed for a short period.

IV. Subcommittee Reports

B. EIA and Improvement Mechanisms: Mr. Daniel reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He informed the EOC of actions by the Ways and Means Committee and the House of Representatives on the budget recommendations.

A. Academic Standards and Assessments: Mr. DeLoach presented the subcommittee recommendations: (1) The Subcommittee recommended approval of the English language arts standards. Superintendent Rex asked for the standards

documents to be revised in accordance with a handout he distributed. The request included changing language regarding the use of the standards in design of assessments and elimination of Standard 7. Dr. Woodall asked for the inclusion of word lists as well as Greek and Latin roots of words. Dr. Siskind and Mrs. Jones responded on behalf of the State Department of Education (SDE). There was discussion of the appropriateness of including these within the standards document or within accompanying instructional resource documents. In response to questions, Dr. Anderson reviewed the authority of the EOC to approve or disapprove the standards documents only.

Mr. DeLoach moved approval of the standards with Rep. Cotty's amendment to specify that the EOC understood the standards and support documents are to be mailed simultaneously. The motion passed with one objection.

Discussion of the changes proposed by Supt. Rex followed. The members determined that it would be inappropriate for them to approve changes as proposed by the SDE, without action by the State Board of Education (SBE). The EOC members agreed that, following action by the SBE to include the changes, the staff would poll the membership to gain its approval.

- (2) The Subcommittee recommended approval of the Math Standards. The EOC approved.
- (3) The Subcommittee recommended changes to the format of the annual school and district report cards as distributed in the meeting materials. The EOC approved.

#### C. Public Awareness

On behalf of the Subcommittee Mr. Martin drew members' attention to the summary of the county tours and asked for approval of the summary to be distributed statewide. The EOC approved.

Mr. Martin moved the EOC go into executive session. The EOC went into Executive Session.

The EOC came out of Executive Session.

Mr. Martin moved that the contract for Chernoff-Newman and Associates be extended by one year. The EOC approved the motion.

#### V. Other Business

Having no other business, the EOC adjourned at 3:45 p.m.